Safeguarding Newsletter—Summer Term 2 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we are in the final half of the summer term for the academic year, this will be our last safeguarding newsletter until September. I hope the newsletters have provided you with useful information. All staff at Belle Vue have a responsibility to safeguard children but just a reminder to you that we have the following designated staff in place with responsibility for safeguarding:

Mrs. C Davies—Designated Safeguarding lead
Mrs. S Richardson—Deputy Safeguarding lead
Mrs. A Perrett—Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs. C Mulligan—Deputy Safeguarding lead

Governor responsible for safeguarding: Mrs. S Rose
If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child/children please contact the school immediately on 01384 389900 or email info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk. During holiday time, please email safeguarding concerns to: safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk
If you suspect a child is in immediate danger please ring 999.

Water Safety

During the summer months it is likely that many pupils will be visiting the beach or swimming pools. It is essential that children are taught how to stay safe in and near water.
It would be really helpful to talk through with your child how they can do this.

Stop and think - spot the dangers

- It can be very cold
- There may be hidden currents
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slippery banks)
- It can be deep
- There may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- There may be no lifeguards there
- It is difficult to estimate depth
- It may be polluted and could make you ill

Stay together

- It is always better to go to the water with a friend or family member
- Children should only go near water with an adult

Float

♦   If you fall into the water unexpectedly – float until you can control your breathing. Then call for help or swim to safety

Call 999

♦   You may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency
♦   If you see someone in difficulty, tell somebody, preferably a Lifeguard if there is one nearby, or go to the nearest telephone, dial 999, ask for the Fire Service at inland water sites and the Coastguard at the beach

Water Safety Code

Stop and think – spot the dangers

Stay together

In an emergency: **Float**

Call **999 or 112**
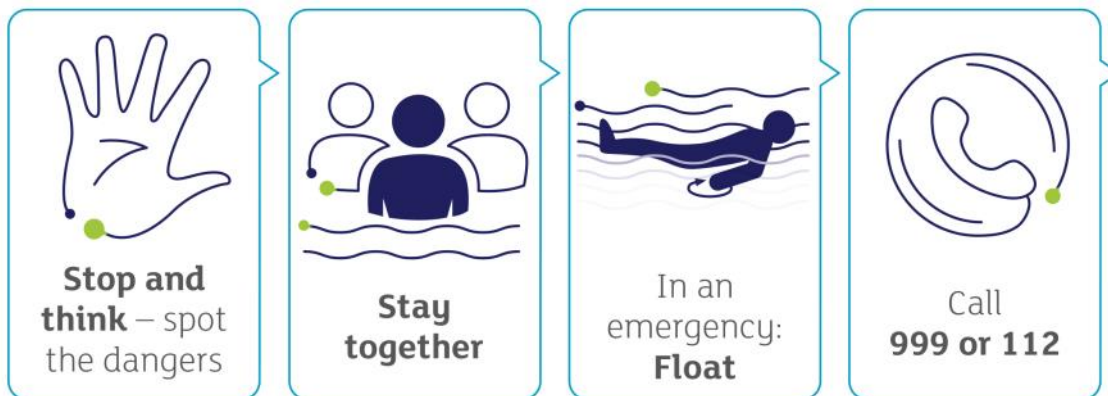
Attendance matters

We would like to thank you all for ensuring your children have good school attendance and your continued commitment to the school.

We all know that good attendance supports our child's education and education is important as it helps our children to learn and achieve. It also supports our children to be curious about the world around them, to help them form ideas and gain the confidence to ask questions and develop a sense of themselves and become the person they want to be.

School attendance is much more than improving the overall performance of schools, it is equally important in keeping children safe. Knowing who is absent from school and the reason for it is fundamental to effective safeguarding and for that reason the detailed scrutiny of a school's attendance procedures is now at the heart of Ofsted's approach to the inspection of a schools' safeguarding.

Patterns of absence and poor punctuality, including persistent and sudden absence, are clear signs that something is wrong. Our aim is to ensure all of our pupils are safe therefore our attendance procedures are rigorous and absences will always be questioned.

It is important to remember to use the school's system for reporting an absence. If your child is deemed to be poorly and requires time off school, please contact the office by 8.30am. You can also leave a voicemail message which will be picked up by one of the office staff. If you do not call school and we cannot make contact with you, one of our designated safeguarding leads may make a home visit to check to see if the family are safe.

Attendance Matters

Video Chatting

Does your child use a web cam or a device to video chat?

Video calls are a very popular way in which people connect with each other, this could be using Facetime on an iPhone, video calling in WhatsApp or perhaps livestreaming on social media as an example.   You should talk to your child about who they chat with and what they are sharing when they do.

As with all apps and websites that your child accesses, make sure they know how to use any reporting tools and they know how to block other users if necessary. **It is important that your child is aware that what they say and do whilst video chatting can be recorded and shared later without their knowledge. Additionally, ensure your child understands that they must say no if they are asked to do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable and they should speak to a trusted adult when they have any concerns.**

Video Chat Safety Tips

1. **Grown-ups rule**. Parents, or another trusted adult, should always start and end all video chats and conferences.
2. **Don't chat with strangers**. Make sure your child only video chats with someone you know and trust. Don't click on any meeting links from an unknown source.
3. **Protect your privacy**. Never include any identifying personal information (full name, birthdate, etc.) in your child's profile.
4. **Use caution with photos**. We recommend never posting your child's photo in a video app profile. Instead, you can make an avatar that still gives your child a face, but protects their image from potential online pilfering. NOTE: Always supervise your child's use of avatar apps like Bitmoji or Zmoji.
5. **Be on your best behaviour**. Teach kids to behave as they would in a real classroom. Anything they do can be recorded and saved, which means it could live on the internet forever.
6. **Keep tabs**. Check in and monitor all of your child's video chats.
7. **Keep it out in the open**. Conduct video chats in a central, public area of your home—not in bedrooms.
8. **Use parental controls**. Always use the privacy and parental control settings on your devices and in video conferencing apps for extra protection.

Childnet have written this blog to help you learn more about video chat and webcams. It also contains tips on how to manage risks whilst online:

https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/video-chat-and-webcams-parents/

NSPCC also have useful information for parents to support their child/children whilst online.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/